

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /075 W

-----059451 232232Z /65

R 231444Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4373

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 2993

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR LE

SUBJ: BOUTROS DISCUSSES FOREIGN AFFAIRS WITH PARLIAMENT

1. FOR FIRST TIME IN RECENT MEMORY, A LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS APPEARED BEFORE A PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS FOREIGN AFFAIRS. FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS MET WITH BOTH THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE OF THE PARLIAMENT JUNE 20 AND 21. BOUTROS TOLD THE PARLIAMENTARIANS THAT WHEN HE VISITS DAMASCUS JUNE 23, HE WILL DISCUSS PRINCIPALLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAIRO ACCORD AND THE SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON.

2. ON QUESTION OF SOUTH LEBANON, SEVERAL BEIRUT NEWSPAPERS JUNE 22, INCLUDING L'ORIENT-LE JOUR AND AN NAHAR, REPORTED THAT BOUTROS CLARIFIED TO THE COMMITTEES THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD NEVER GIVEN "GUARANTEES" TO LEBANON AGAINST
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ISRAELI INTERVENTION. HE NOTED, ACCORDING TO AN NAHAR, THAT "THE LEBANESE PRESS SAID ONE DAY THAT GUARANTEES HAD BEEN GIVEN, THEN THE PRESS SAID THAT THE GUARANTEES HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN...IN FACT THERE NEVER WAS ANY GUARANTEE. IN THE WORLD OF FOREIGN POLITICS IT IS EASIER TO RECEIVE ASSURANCES THAN TO SECURE GUARANTEES." AN NAHAR SAYS BOUTROS DESCRIBED SOUTH AS A "PAN-ARAB RESPONSIBILITY."

3. COMMENT: SINCE THE PARLIAMENT ITSELF IS NOT IN SESSION, FACT THAT BOUTROS MET WITH PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES IS NOT LIKELY TO HAVE MUCH IMPACT ON CONDUCT OF GOL FOREIGN AFFAIRS. IT IS USEFUL, HOWEVER, TO HAVE BOUTROS CLARIFY FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD THAT THERE NEVER HAVE BEEN ANY U.S. "GUARANTEES" CONCERNING THE SOUTH. THIS MAY PERHAPS LAY TO REST A MISLEADING IMPRESSION WHICH THE BEIRUT PRESS HAS BEEN FEATURING OFF AND ON FOR THE LAST FOUR OR FIVE MONTHS.

PARKER

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Message Attributes

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